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United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Fellowships on disarmament were awarded to 30 officials in both 2003 and 2004. Pursuant to relevant legislative mandates, the Secretary-General endeavoured to encourage Member States to take gender equality into account when nominating candidates to the programme of fellowships on disarmament. As a result, 11 women participated in the programme in 2003 and 9 are expected to participate in the 2004 programme.

The programme of studies continued to be structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. The second segment involves study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States at their invitation, including study visits to Germany and Japan, to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, and to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The third segment, held at United Nations Headquarters, is intended to familiarize the fellows with the work of both the First Committee and the Department for Disarmament Affairs. This segment also includes seminars organized by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies as well as a presentation organized by the United States Department of State.

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To date, the programme has trained 645 officials from 152 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme continues to contribute to enhancing expertise in the field of disarmament in Member States, particularly in developing countries, and to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–2	3
II.	Programme of fellowships on disarmament	3–18	3
	A. 2003 and 2004 fellowships	3–4	3
	B. Programme of studies	5–18	5
III.	Conclusion	19–21	7

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 57/93 of 22 November 2002, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue with the annual Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

2. It should be noted that, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/2 and paragraph 2.6 of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, programme 2, disarmament (A/55/6/Rev.1), the Secretary-General has endeavoured to encourage Member States to take into account gender equality when nominating candidates to the programme of fellowships on disarmament. As a result, 11 women participated in the programme in 2003 and 9 women are expected to participate in 2004, an increase of 54 per cent in comparison with the biennium 2001-2002.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. 2003 and 2004 fellowships

3. Thirty fellowships were awarded in 2003 to the following officials:

Mr. Arman Israelian	Armenia
Mr. Jandyr Ferreira Dos Santos	Brazil
Ms. Lachezara Stoianova Stoeva	Bulgaria
Mr. Lu Kang	China
Ms. Marcela Ordoñez	Colombia
Mr. Cheikh Ahmed Abdallah	Comoros
Mrs. Anayansi Rodriguez Camejo	Cuba
Mr. Kabuzamba Lubinga Tochi	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Mr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz Moneer	Egypt
Mr. Malkhaz Mikeladze	Georgia
Mrs. Betty Osafo Memsah	Ghana
Mrs. Toure Aminatou Diallo	Guinea
Ms. Nutan Kapoor Mahawar	India
Mr. Hajime Kurata	Japan
Mr. Donatas Vainalavicius	Lithuania
Mrs. Hantasoa Fida Cyrille	Madagascar
Mr. Nemuun Gal	Mongolia
Mrs. Martha Namene Haiduwa	Namibia
Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi	Nepal
Mr. Felix A. Maradiaga Blandón	Nicaragua

Mr. Yousuf Issa Al-Zadjali	Oman
Mr. Khalil-Ur-Rahman Hashmi	Pakistan
Mrs. Monica C. Campos Fernandez	Peru
Mr. Dmitry Vladimirovich Kiku	Russian Federation
Ms. Gordana Ljubisavljevic	Serbia and Montenegro
Mr. Igor Kucer	Slovakia
Mr. Walpita Gamage Sampath Prasanna	Sri Lanka
Ms. Caroline Kitana	United Republic of Tanzania
Mr. Rustam Kayumov	Uzbekistan
Mr. Mohamed Ali Saleh Al-Najar	Yemen

4. Thirty fellowships were awarded in 2004. By 15 June 2004 all the officials who were awarded fellowships had confirmed their participation in the 2004 programme:

Ms. María Paula Mac Loughlin	Argentina
Mrs. Tatyana Fedorovich	Belarus
Mr. Maurille F. Biaou	Benin
Mr. Karma S. Tshosar	Bhutan
Ms. Angela K. Ayllon Quisbert	Bolivia
Mr. Binega Tewelde Weldemaria	Ethiopia
Mr. Rolliansyah Soemirat	Indonesia
Mr. Seyed Mohammad A. Robatjazi	Islamic Republic of Iran
Mr. Jomo Mareka Gecaga	Kenya
Ms. Līga Raita Kalnina	Latvia
Mr. Marwan Francis	Lebanon
Ms. Pulane Lechesa	Lesotho
Mr. Michael M. M. Chiusiwa	Malawi
Mrs. Wong Mee Choo	Malaysia
Mr. Niraj Kumarsingh Ramdin	Mauritius
Mr. Alonso Francisco Martinez Ruiz	Mexico
Ms. Salima Lyoussoufi	Morocco
Mr. Mohammed Bashir Basha	Nigeria
Ms. Paulina A. Gonciarz	Poland
Major Hassan Saleh Al-Nesf	Qatar
Mr. Jong Kwon Youn	Republic of Korea
Mr. Dorin Panfil	Republic of Moldova

Mr. Nicolas A. Nyouky	Senegal
Ms. Mamagoe Squire	Sierra Leone
Mr. Mohamed Hussein Idris	Sudan
Mr. Orazdurdy A. Khezretov	Turkmenistan
Mr. Byereta Rauben	Uganda
Mr. Oleksander Osadchiy	Ukraine
Mr. Alexander G. Yanez Deleuze	Venezuela
Mr. Silumelume Mubukwanu	Zambia

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. In 2003, the programme lasted from 1 September to 5 November. In 2004, the programme is scheduled to be carried out from 30 August to 3 November. The programme of studies is structured in three segments. The activities that follow were included in the 2003 programme and, after the necessary updating, are also expected to be carried out in 2004.

First segment

6. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. This is accomplished through attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and participation in lectures by senior representatives of States members of the Conference and senior representatives of United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Geneva International Peace Research Institute and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. In 2003, the fellows also had the opportunity to participate in lectures by the President of the Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chairman-Designate of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the Chairman of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention, and the Chairperson of the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action To Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The fellows also attended a seminar on "Weapons of Mass Destruction and Non-State Actors" organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

7. While in Geneva, the fellows are also required to conduct research and to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament and international security. Research papers are finalized and then introduced and discussed during the New York segment of the programme. In order to facilitate their research, the fellows are introduced to the Library of the United Nations Office at Geneva and to the Reference Library of the Geneva Branch of the Department for

Disarmament Affairs, as well as to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at United Nations Headquarters and the Reference Library of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

8. In addition, a practical exercise on the preparation of draft resolutions for the First Committee starts in Geneva and is concluded in New York, after exposure to the proceedings of the First Committee. The exercise includes a moderated discussion on the drafts prepared by the fellows, introduction of amendments and revisions and, finally, taking action on draft resolutions.

Second segment

9. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States, at their invitation.

10. At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, fellows are briefed on the work of the organization, the genesis and the status of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the verification procedures of the Convention, the work of the inspectorate and the inspection process, international cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention and the role of non-governmental organizations.

11. The study visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization includes presentations on the work of that organization, an introduction to the International Monitoring System and a guided visit to the International Data Centre.

12. The study visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna comprises presentations and briefings on such topics as: the Non-Proliferation Treaty, practical and legal aspects of IAEA safeguards, introduction to the functioning of nuclear reactors, and briefing on the IAEA Nuclear Safety Programme. The programme also includes visits to the IAEA Laboratories at Seibersdorf and to the Austrian Nuclear Research Reactor of Vienna University.

13. For many years now, Germany and Japan have been inviting participants in the programme of fellowships on disarmament for study visits to national institutions and for seminars with officials of the respective Governments. The study visits provide the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the national policies and work of the two Governments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament.

14. The study visit to Germany in 2003 included briefings by, and a round-table discussion with, senior officials of the Department of Disarmament and Arms Control of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. The visit also included a guided, highly informative visit to a conversion plant (Nammo Buck GmbH) in Pinnow, where fellows learned, inter alia, about environmentally-friendly methods for the destruction of weapons and munitions. A study visit by the fellows to Germany planned for 2004 is expected to include similar activities.

15. The Government of Japan and the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima continued to organize valuable activities for the fellows in 2003. In Tokyo, the fellows were briefed by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Japan's disarmament policy and met with the officials from the Center for the Promotion of Disarmament

and Non-Proliferation. In Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the fellows were received by local officials, visited sites commemorating the atomic bombing such as the Atomic Bomb Museum, the Peace Park, the Atomic Bomb Home for the Elderly, and National Peace Memorial Hall in Nagasaki, as well as the Atomic Bomb Dome, the Peace Memorial Museum and National Peace Memorial Hall in Hiroshima. The fellows also met with survivors of the atomic bombing, heard lectures on the social and medical legacies of the atomic bombing, and participated in a seminar with the researchers of the Hiroshima Peace Institute. The study visit to Japan in 2004 is expected to include similar activities.

Third segment

16. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and is intended to allow the fellows to familiarize themselves with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The segment includes a second cycle of lectures by members of delegations to the First Committee and by United Nations officials on items on the agenda of the Committee and the responsibilities of the various branches of the Department, as well as regular attendance by the fellows at meetings of the Committee. The fellows also attend symposia and panel discussions sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

17. In 2003, fellows took part in a two-day seminar organized by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies on various aspects of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, including the possible impact of terrorism on such matters, and a presentation organized by the United States Department of State on its current arms control objectives and priorities in the First Committee of the General Assembly.

18. While in New York, the fellows also participate in group discussions on a selected disarmament topic, moderated by the coordinator of the programme. Two or three fellows make short presentations, which are followed by an open discussion with the participation of all other fellows. In addition, the fellows finalize their research papers and make short presentations of their main theses, which are then discussed by the other fellows.

III. Conclusion

19. **The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament was launched in 1979 as a follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session in 1978. The programme is aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in developing countries. From 1979 to 2004 (inclusive), the programme has trained 645 officials from 152 States. Many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments and their Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva, New York and Vienna. The large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Department for Disarmament Affairs are a testimony of the undiminished interest of Governments in the programme. During the biennium 2003-2004, three Member States were granted fellowships for the first time, namely,**

Comoros, Qatar and Turkmenistan. The role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats for participation in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations is recognized and appreciated by the Member States. The fellowship programme on disarmament was identified by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services as the most successful United Nations training programme it had reviewed (see E/AC.51/1999/2, para. 61).

20. **The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme of fellowships on disarmament contributes significantly to enhancing expertise in the field of disarmament in Member States, particularly in developing countries, to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows so that they can participate more effectively in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations at all levels. The programme, grouping together participants from various cultural and political environments plays also an important role in facilitating better understanding of disarmament and security concerns of the international community and in fostering progress in disarmament and arms limitation.**

21. **The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. The Secretary-General is particularly grateful to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme.**